

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Oil Distribution in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	5 June 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Marketing Organization

1. PETROL, the Bulgarian government oil marketing organization, has its headquarters in Sofia and branches in all district centers. The organization is subordinate to the oil department of the Ministry of Commerce. It is headed by an administrative manager and a technical manager, who are assisted by managers of departments for lubricating oil, for all other petroleum products, for cadres, for control, and for accounts.
2. PETROL was the name of the marketing organization when it was established in 1932 as a joint project of Standard Oil, Shell, the Rumanian Nafta, and the Bulgarian Socombel oil companies. When the government took over its assets and nationalized the company in 1948, its title was retained. Since 1948, negotiations concerning compensation have been in progress between the new government organization and representatives of the old company, but so far no results have been accomplished.
3. Apart from some special lubricating oils imported from the USSR, most petroleum products are obtained from Rumania. The following types of petroleum products are imported: automobile gasoline weighing 735 to 840 grams per liter at 50 degrees, a lighter gasoline for industrial (rubber) and laboratory use, lamp oil, solar oil, lubricating oil, solid and liquid paraffin, and crude asphalt.

Storage Facilities and Retail Depots

4. Sofia has the following main storage facilities:
  - a. Fuel depot No. 1 at Nadezhda, near Sofia, which has six steel tanks covered with concrete, some with a capacity of 100,000 liters and some with a capacity of 50,000 liters; all were built by Standard Oil and other foreign

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "H")

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companies and are all above ground; concrete storage facilities for oil in barrels are situated nearby; and

- b. Fuel depot No. 2 at the Zakharna Fabrika (Sugar Factory) District has three underground tanks, each holding 100,000 liters; two hold automobile gasoline and the third holds solar oil; no lubricating oil is stored here; the tanks were constructed in 1950 on the site of the former sugar factory.
5. Retail depots were established about January 1952. They are supplied from the two wholesale depots and are equipped with a modern type of electric pump. These depots are located as follows:
  - a. Two underground steel and concrete tanks near the main railroad station of Sofia, one of 10,000 liters for gasoline and the second of 5,000 liters for solar oil; lubricating oil is stored in barrels above ground;
  - b. Two underground steel and concrete tanks at the Aleksandrovska Hospital Street (sic), one of 10,000 liters for gasoline and one of 5,000 liters for solar oil; lubricating oil is stored in barrels above ground;
  - c. Two gasoline tanks in the old market known as Bit Pazar; and
  - d. Two similar tanks, location unknown.
6. In addition, there are the following retail depots in the center of Sofia for gasoline, solar oil, and lubricating oil:
  - a. Rakovska Street, 5,000 liters;
  - b. Iskür Street, 5,000 liters;
  - c. Bratiya Miladinov Street, 5,000 liters;
  - d. Slaveykov Square, a depot for lubricating oil only; and
  - e. A number of smaller depots, location not known.
7. Aviation gasoline is stored in underground tanks near Bozhürishte (N 42-45, E 23-11) and other airfields. No special storage facilities are provided for lamp oil, which is supplied directly to the government stores.
8. Gasoline and solar storage tanks and storage facilities for lubricating oil are also located in the following towns: Mezdra, Lom, Ruse, Burgas, Varna, Plovdiv, and Gorna Oryakhovitsa.

#### Tank Cars

9. PETROL also owns a large number of 15- and 20-ton tank cars. Most of the 20-ton cars have partitions, enabling them to carry two types of fuel simultaneously.
10. The Sofia district branch of PETROL owns four tank cars, as follows:
  - a. One of 10,000 liters;
  - b. One of 5,000 liters;
  - c. One of 3,000 liters; and
  - d. One trailer-type of 15,000 liters.

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Miscellaneous

11. Gasoline, solar oil, and lubricating oil are rationed in Bulgaria. A special committee decides on the quantity to be allocated monthly to each automobile and industrial enterprise, in accordance with the work done. Rations for an individual vehicle may range from 50 to 500 liters per month.
12. Since the currency reform, gasoline costs 0.55 leva per liter.
13. Drilling for oil is in progress between Ruse and Gorna Oryakhovitsa, but none has yet been found there.

14. [ ] the following personalities:

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- a. Taku Dimitrov, head of the Gasoline, Solar, and Kerosene Department at the PETROL head office, [ ]

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- b. Meiersehn (fnu), head of the Lubricating Oil Department of the PETROL head office, [ ]

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[ ] Comment: The Sofia 1952 Telephone Directory lists retail depots as follows: No. 4 Alabin Street, No. 94 Rakovski Street, No. 84 Dondukov Boulevard, No. 112 Boris I Street, No. 69 Gladston Street, No. 26 Iskŭr Street, No. 25 Miladinovi Brothers Street, and No. 62 Samuil Street.

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